

# Queen Elizabeth High School



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Our ref: MF/VCL

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Dear Parents/Carers

To reflect the new grading scheme which has been brought in alongside a new GCSE curriculum, I have reviewed our student target setting process and subsequently carried out a review of targets for every student in current year 8, 9 and 10 (where identified, set new targets that are more akin to where a student should be achieving). I have also empowered teaching staff to examine these new targets and use their own knowledge of your children to raise or lower the targets in some subjects.

For example, a student has performed less well in their SAT's at Year 6 meaning their targets are lower. yet musically they may be extremely gifted. it is unfair to hold that student back by saying they are only capable of a lower level of attainment based against their academic performance in Year 6. Conversely, it is also the case that just because a student performs exceptionally well at Year 6 in English and maths that they should be expected to perform at a similar standard in for example Art.

We want all of our students to achieve the very best they can. Therefore, we have put in place a Minimum Expected Grade (MEG). This is what we believe is the minimum a student should do in a subject to have made the progress that is expected of them. However, we also want to stretch and challenge our students, so we have also introduced a Student Challenge Grade (SCG) which is always 1 grade higher than their MEG.

We also want to remove some of the burden of this information on students, especially as they are beginning their secondary school career and developing. We have created a grade band system where students not yet taking GCSE courses of study, will be informed their target grade lies within a band and I have included this information later in the letter. However, as a parent or carer we also want you to be clear on the expectations for your child so we will continue to share both the MEG and the SCG for their subjects with you.

When staff are reporting on the progress your child is making towards their targets we use a system where students are considered "Above Target", "Marginally Above Target", "On Target", "Marginally Below Target" or "Below Target". We will always do this against their MEG, and I have included for you a table that allows you to calculate exactly where your child is at with that information.

Similarly, there is a table for those students following NCFE Technical Awards in Years 10 and 11. Targets in those subjects follow the Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\* model and only apply to a small number of subjects taken by Year 10 and 11 students.

We appreciate that this can sometimes come across as confusing, but we hope that it is presented in a format that enables parents and carers to access information about how their child is progressing more readily. Can I say that if you find it difficult to follow I am more than happy for you to pop into school where I can go through it with you, so please do take advantage of that offer if you require it.

## Band Structure for Non-GCSE Communicated to Students

| MEG Band | MEG | MEG | MEG | MEG |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Band 1   | 1   | 2   | 3   |     |
| Band 2   | 4   | 5   |     |     |
| Band 3   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |

## Determination of MEG against Actual Grades for reporting to Parents/Carers Numerical Targets

| MEG        | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 (Band 1) | 0      | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      |
| 2 (Band 1) | 0      | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      |
| 3 (Band 1) | 0      | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      |
| 4 (Band 2) | 0      | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      |
| 5 (Band 2) | 0      | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      |
| 6 (Band 3) | 0      | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      |
| 7 (Band 3) | 0      | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      |
| 8 (Band 3) | 0      | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      |
| 9 (Band 3) | 0      | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6      | 7      | 8      | 9      |

|                               |
|-------------------------------|
| Below Target (BT)             |
| Marginally Below Target (MBT) |
| On Target (OT)                |
| Marginally Above Target (MAT) |
| Above Target (AT)             |

## Determination of MEG against Actual Grades for reporting to Parents/Carers Technical Targets

| MEG               | Actual | Actual | Actual      | Actual       |
|-------------------|--------|--------|-------------|--------------|
| NCFE Pass         | Pass   | Merit  | Distinction | Distinction* |
| NCFE Merit        | Pass   | Merit  | Distinction | Distinction* |
| NCFE Distinction  | Pass   | Merit  | Distinction | Distinction* |
| NCFE Distinction* | Pass   | Merit  | Distinction | Distinction* |

Students in years 8-10 will be informed of their new MEG and SCG in GCSE courses and in non-GCSE courses they will be informed of their band from next week. For Year 7 students these grades will be shared in the near future when we have had a little more time to see how they are working as their secondary school career begins.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Farmer  
Headteacher